

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 221240Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 448

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 0239

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE, IN

SUBJ: PM BANDARANAIKE'S VISIT TO INDIA

REF COLOMBO 3177, 28 DEC 1973

1. MRS. B DEPARTED MORNING 22 JAN FOR STATE VISIT TO INDIA. ACCOMPANYING HER WILL BE SON AND DAUGHTER, ANURA BANDARANAIKE AND SUNETHRA RUPASICBHE, W.T. JAYASINGHE, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA), H.A. DE S. GUNASEKERA, SECRETARY, PLANNING MINISTRY, P.B. DASSANAYAKE, CONTROLLER OF IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION, BERNARD TILAKARATNA, DIRECTOR, MDFA (ALREADY IN INDIA), C.W. PINTO, LEGAL ADVIER, MDFA, AND MACKIE RATWATTE, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PM (HER BROTHER).

2. COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION FITS IN WITH AGENDA ITEMS GIVEN PARA 2 REFTEL. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED "CEYLON DAILY NEWS" EDITORIAL 22 JAN APPEARED TO STRESS POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER AGREEMENT ON STATUS OF STATELESS TAMILS IN SRI LANKA WHILE STRIKING BEARISH NOTE REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON ISSUES OF KACHCHATIVU ISLAND AND DEMARCATION OF INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES.

3. MDFA OFFICIAL TELLS US THAT GSL HAS BEEN PUSHING HARD FOR
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AGREEMENT ON KACHCHATIVU AND TERRITORIAL WATERS SETTLEMENT.

SOURCE EXPECTED FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THESE ISSUES BECAUSE SURVEYOR-GENERAL AND ASSISTANT WERE ALSO GOING TO DELHI. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO REPORT IN NEWSPAPERS THAT THEY ACTUALLY HAVE GONE TO DELHI. REPATRIATION OF STATELESS TAMILS IS CURRENTLY PROCEEDING AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED SO THAT OPPORTUNITY FOR SPECTACULAR ACHIEVEMENT ON THIS ISSUE SEEMS EXTREMELY LIMITED. HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MDME AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON STATUS OF 150,000 STATELESS TAMILS WHO WERE NOT COVERED BY 1964 SIRIMAVO-SHASTRI AGREEMENT.

4. RE DISCUSSIONS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, MDFA SOURCE INDICATED MWN EFFORTS WOULD BE ON NON-ALIGNED RELATIONSHIPS AND PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE'S INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (IOPZ) PROPOSAL. HE INDICATED GSL IS DISTURBED BY RADICAL CONTROL OF NON-ALIGNED SECRETARIAT UNDER ALGERIANS AND INFERIOR POSITION OF ASIANS IN FACE OF COALITION OF AFRICANS AND ARABS. DISCUSSIONS WOULD CENTER ON WAYS TO BLUNT CONTROL OF RADICALS BEFORE MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO IN 1975 OR 1976. ON IOPZ, SOURCE INDICATED DISCUSSIONS WOULD FOCUS ON WHAT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN UNGA SESSION THIS YEAR. HE INDICATED THRUST WAS TOWARD OBTAINING AGREEMENT AMONG LITTORAL COUNTRIES BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO DEAL WITH MAJOR MARITIME POWERS. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT JOINT TALKS WILL BE HELD BY THREE PRIME MINISTERS (MARSHAL TITO WILL EUSO BE IN NEW DELHI), ALTHOUGH NEWSPAPERS HERE HAVE SO HINTED.

5. OUR SOURCE GIVES LITTLE PROMINENCE TO ATTEMPTS FOR JOINT ECONOMIC COOPERATION. ALTHOUGH POSSIBILITIES REPORTEDLY EXIST IN PROCESSING OF GRAPHITE OR MICA AND GUARANTEED SALE OF EXCESS CEYLONese RUBBER GOODS TO INDIA, THEY ARE PROBABLY MINOR ENDEAVORS. REPORTS OF CEYLONese SALES OF EXCESS CAPACITY OF ELECTRICITY ARE DISCOUNTED AS EXCESS DOES NOT EXIST NOR IS IT LIKELY TO FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. NEVERTHELESS BANDARANAIKE VISIT MIGHT SERVE TO STIMULATE ON-GOING BILATERAL WORKING-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ON VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATU.,

6. IMPRESSION WE HAVE IS THAT CEYLONese ARE HOPING FOR BREAK-THROUGH ON BOUNDARY AND KACHCHATIVU ISSUE. HOWEVER, OUR SOURCE FELT LAST-MINUTE PERSONAL INVITATIONS FROM PRIME MINISTER GANDHI TO PM BANDARANAIKE'S CHILDREN ALSO TO BE GUESTS MIGHT BE INDIAN ATTEMPT TO BLUNT FAILURE TO AGREE ON TERRITORIAL

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ISSUES.
VAN HOLLEN

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